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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

- 1 1. (original) A method for translating control messages between a network manager and a router, the method comprising:
 - 3 intercepting an input command message intended for said router, said router partitioned into a plurality of logical router partitions, said input command message expressed in terms of a logical router partition;
 - 6 translating the logical router partition expressed in said input command message into a physical router expression; and
 - 8 propagating said input command message, including any translated expressions, toward said router.
- 1 2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of translating comprises:
 - 2 translating a logical target identifier to a physical router target identifier.
- 1 3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said intercepting step comprises:
 - 2 indexing said logical target identifier with an input correlation tag of said input command message.
- 1 4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 intercepting a return message from the router, said return message expressed in physical router terms;
 - 4 translating said physical router expression of said return message into a logical router partition and
 - 6 propagating said translated return message toward said network manager.

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1 6. (previously amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising determining
2 said logical target identifier from a return correlation tag of said return message and an index, an
3 input and the return correlation tags having a predetermined relationship.

1 7. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the return message comprises at least
2 one of a command response message and an acknowledgment message.

1 9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the autonomous message comprises an
2 alarm message.

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9 propagating the TL1 message, including any translated expressions, toward the
10 router.

1 13. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising determining said logical
2 target identifier from a return correlation tag of said return message and said index, wherein said
3 input and return correlation tags are equivalent.

1 14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the return TL1 message comprises at
2 least one of a command response message and an acknowledgement message.

1 15. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
2 intercepting an autonomous TL1 message from one of the network elements, said
3 autonomous TL1 message expressed in terms of an access identifier;
4 matching the access identifier with an associated logical target identifier;
5 translating the physical router target identifier to the logical target identifier; and

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6 propagating the autonomous message, including any translated expressions,
7 toward the network manager.

1 16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the autonomous TL1 message
2 comprises an alarm message.

1 17. (previously amended) Apparatus for routing control messages between a network
2 manager and a router, comprising:

3 means for intercepting an input command message intended for said router, said
4 router partitioned into a plurality of logical router partitions, said input command message
5 expressed in terms of a logical router partition;

6 means for translating each logical router partition expressed in said input
7 command message into a physical router expression;

8 means for propagating the input command message, including any translated
9 expressions, toward the router.

1 18. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said translating means comprises:
2 translating a logical target identifier to a physical router target identifier.

1 19. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said intercepting step comprises:
2 means for indexing said logical target identifier with an input correlation tag of
3 said input command message.

1 20. (original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:
2 means for intercepting a return message from the router, said return message
3 expressed in physical router terms;
4 means for translating said physical router expression of said return message into a
5 logical router partition; and
6 means for propagating said return message, including any translated expressions,
7 toward said network manager.